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Pullout from Hebron not expected until after elections

THE government has decided not to completely redeploy from Hebron until after the upcoming elections, according to weekend media reports. Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr said after consultations between Prime Minister Shimon Peres and senior army officers that "no date had been set" for withdrawing troops from Hebron.

The announcement raised speculation that the pullout would be postponed until after the elections. The redeployment was originally scheduled for March, but delayed by Hamas suicide bombings that killed 59 people. A senior political source said Friday that he believes Peres will decide on a symbolic redeployment before the elections, leaving the bulk of the withdrawal for afterward.

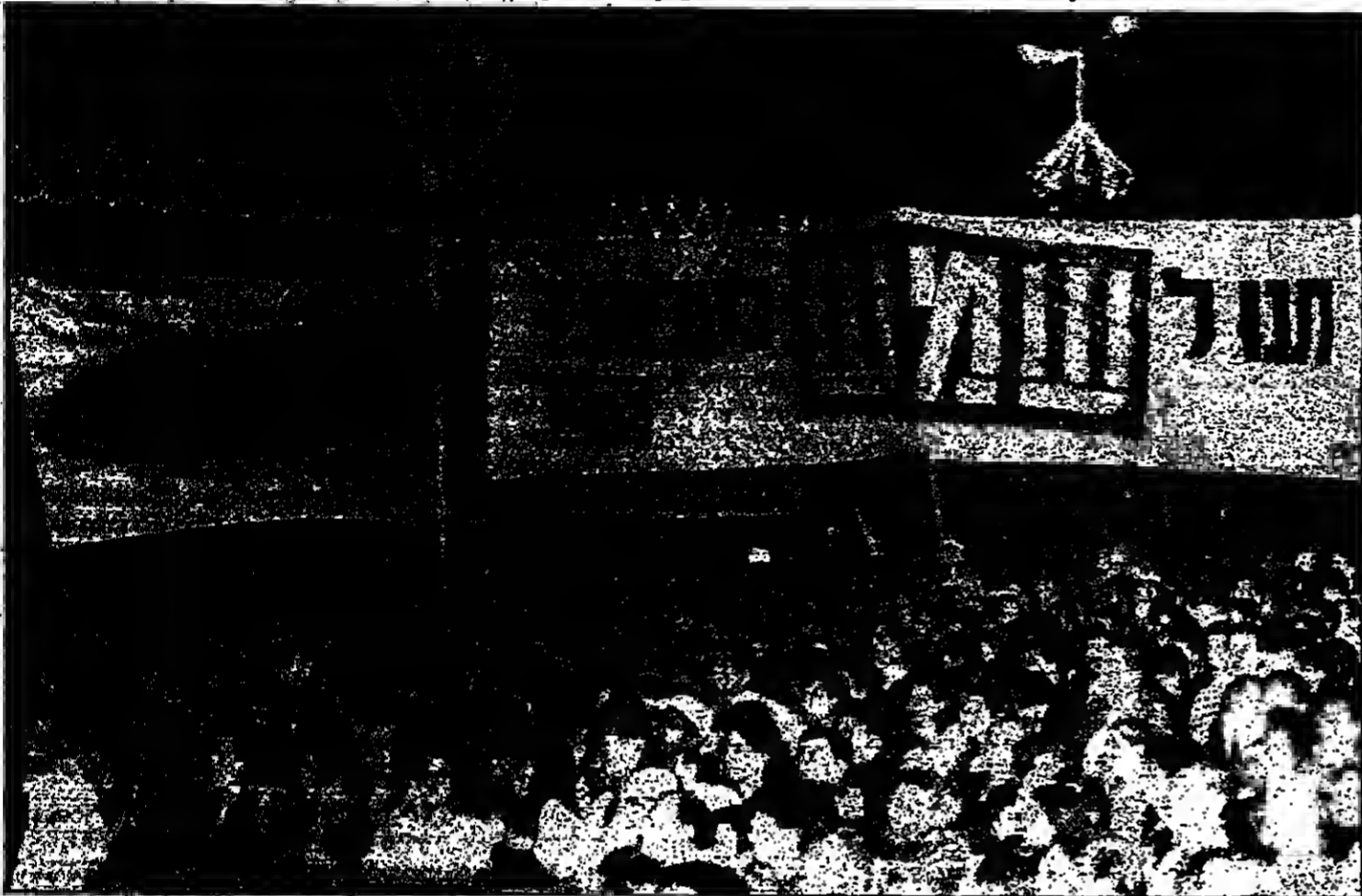
Asked when a pullout would occur, Orr said: "I cannot say now what the exact timing will be because we have to complete the coordination with the Palestinians and then it will take place." Orr said Israel's election day was a "convenient date for provocation" in Hebron. "This indicates Mr. Peres despises the peace process as a whole," Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe told Channel 1. "Each time he promises and does not fulfill," he said.

Senior Palestinian official Faisal Husseini said: "I believe they must withdraw due to the agreement and the timing we were talking about and we agreed upon. Any kind of delay is not a good sign and it is not helpful." Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu hinted on Friday he not only welcomed a delay in the Hebron pullout, but would favor expanding the Jewish settlement in the city. "What is needed in Hebron is a continuous Jewish settlement from Beit Hadassah to Kiryat Arba," Netanyahu said in an interview with Channel 2. Asked if he meant adding settlers, Netanyahu said: "I didn't talk about numbers. What is needed is a geographical continuum of the Jewish enclave that connects it to Kiryat Arba."

Among those participating in Friday's meeting on Hebron were Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, the chief of general staff, the head of military intelligence, the General Security Service chief, and the OC Central Command. The security officials said they preferred to postpone the withdrawal, saying they needed more time to complete the redeployment and improve security arrangements for the settlers who will remain in Hebron. Security officials estimated the Palestinians would accept the presentation of a plan for a staged withdrawal based on a firm timetable. The elections were also a clear consideration. It was estimated that a complete withdrawal from Hebron before the elections would stir a major right-wing wave of demonstrations.

Shas mentor Rahhi Ovadia Yosef also made clear that the withdrawal should be postponed until after the elections. Reacting to the government statement, Meretz Knesset faction chairman MK Ran Cohen said it was an embarrassing capitulation to radical settlers on the one hand, and an achievement for Hamas and Islamic Jihad on the other. He added that the failure to withdraw from Hebron was a serious and dangerous blow to the peace process, and ran contrary to the political legacy of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his signature on the peace agreements with the Palestinians.

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies



Thousands of people attend the memorial rally in Kikar Yitzhak Rabin last night to mark six months since the prime minister's assassination. (Israel Sun)

Final status talks begin today in Taba

THREE years of negotiations on the final status of the most difficult issues still outstanding between Israel and the Palestinians will begin in Taba today. The opening session of talks today is expected to last some three hours, with the discussion centering on preliminary clarification of procedural matters. The substantive items on the agenda are Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, political status and final borders. Water will also be discussed. The talks will adjourn tonight until after the May 29 elections. The Israeli team to the third round of talks - known as Oslo 3

BATSHEVA TSUR and JON IMMANUEL

will be headed by Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and Palestinian Authority top negotiator Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen). The seven representatives on the Israeli negotiating team include IDF generals and economic experts, in addition to Foreign Ministry officials. The date of the talks was fixed in the first round of negotiations with the Palestinians in Oslo. At the time, it was stipulated they would be completed by May 4, 1999. "The venue and nature of the negotiations will be decided at [today's] meeting," Abbas told Reuters. "The committees could meet in different places. The talks will be held in secret and we will not negotiate through the press," Abbas said. "If talks are conducted intensively, we hope to finish in two years or less, but because we are dealing with tough issues talks might go on for three years," he added. Abbas told the Voice of Palestine that the talks will be difficult and "both parties need three years to get to know each other very well, to know their rights and their obligations. But we are not starting from zero." At the Palestinian Authority cabinet meeting yesterday, ministers said the final talks should lead to a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. "Our aims are very clear," said PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath. "We have to establish our Palestinian independent state ... this is the real negotiation."

Thousands attend Rabin memorial rally

MICHAL YUDELMAN

TENS of thousands, mostly young people, came to Kikar Yitzhak Rabin last night to take part in a rally in memory of the late prime minister, assassinated six months ago after speaking at a peace rally at the square. The association Dor Shalem Dorash Shalom (A Whole Generation is Demanding Peace), which organized the rally, said it would not be political but would express the people's desire for peace and their support for the peace process which Rabin had led. The organizers had to cut out parts of a recording of Rabin's last speech played at the rally, under the orders of Justice Theodor Orr, chairman of the Central Elections Committee, to prevent engaging in election propaganda. Leah Rabin, the main speaker at the rally, said that even after the Hamas terrorist at-

tacks "we knew we must get up and continue the peace train, despite the difficulties and obstacles. We won't let any radical lunatic element sabotage the way to peace. You are aware of Rabin's legacy and are here today to carry it out." The silent majority now knows it must be silent no longer and speak out for what it believes, Rabin said afterward. "The rally here tonight is an expression of this. These people are saying: 'We are here and we want peace.' We are here to remember him and to say we are committed to walk in his footsteps and realize the peace he tried to bring." Hundreds of policemen guarded the square, dominated by Meretz and Peace

Now posters and banners calling for peace and Labor posters supporting Prime Minister Shimon Peres. A portrait of Yitzhak Rabin hung behind the stage, and a huge blue-and-white sign saying, "Continuing with the peace, haver" (a take-off on the slogan coined by US President Bill Clinton after Rabin's death, Shalom haver), hung on the front of the stage. The rally, hosted by Gila Almagor and Didi Harari, consisted mainly of the performances of prominent singers, including Aviv Gefen, who sang "I'm Going to Cry For You," the song he sang at Rabin's rally. Danny Rohas, Danny Litani, Hava Albershtein, Rami Kleinstein, Shlomo Gronich, Gali Atari, Yafa Yarkoni, Samir Shkri, Zehava Ben, Shlomi Shabat, Arik Sinai, Shmulik Kraus and many others.

Norwegian leaders supported termination of Jewish state

STEVE RODAN

NORWEGIAN Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal, who was part of his government's sponsorship of the secret Israeli-PLO talks in Oslo in 1993, was once in the vanguard of a political campaign that supported the demise of Israel as a Jewish state, the daily newspaper Dagen reported yesterday. The Norwegian daily Dagen bases its report on the book of a former secretary-general of Norway's ruling Labor Party, Haakon Lie. Lie, regarded as a strong supporter of Israel, traced today's Norwegian leaders from their student days in the early 1970s when they were passionate advocates of the PLO and a Palestinian secular state that would replace Israel. In his book As I See It, Part Two, Lie reports that at the convention of the Labor Party's Youth Organization (AUF) in 1971, its chairman, Godal, approved the following statement: "The AUF will support the forces which struggle for the national and social liberation of the Palesti-

nian people. The qualification for lasting peace must be that Israel ceases to exist as a Jewish state and that a progressive Palestinian state is established where all ethnic groups can live side by side in complete equality." A Labor Party official told The Jerusalem Post that the AUF under Godal supported the PLO in the 1970s but added he could not immediately confirm the existence of the resolution. "I can say that Mr. Godal's position has since changed," the official, who did not want to be named, said. Godal's spokesman, Ingvard Havnen, told the Post that a search of AUF minutes during the 1971 convention did not turn up the statement cited in Lie's book. "We are not ready to verify that the AUF accepted the resolution," Havnen said. "The foreign minister himself could not remember such a resolution." Asked whether Godal today agrees with the resolution cited by Lie, Havnen said, "He would think that this is totally irrelevant as we have not verified that this was actually passed." The Dagen describes the AUF resolution as the turning point in Norway's previously warm relations with Israel. "Shortly afterward, the same attitude [as in the (Continued on Page 3)]

Channel 1: France granting humanitarian aid to Hizbullah

News agencies

FRANCE is extending "humanitarian aid" to Lebanon through Hizbullah, citing the fact that Hizbullah performs humanitarian services, Channel 1 reported last night. Meanwhile, President Jacques Chirac said France's renewed commitment to Lebanon was demonstrated by a shipment of equipment on Friday to help repair power stations hit by the IDF. "I wanted to show...our solidarity toward civilian populations hard hit by the recent fighting," Chirac said in a letter asking French Defense Minister Charles Millon to pass on thanks to the navy for the shipment. He said the delivery of four electrical transformers to Lebanon by the landing ship Foudre was "a strong, concrete and rapid sign of France's renewed commitment to Lebanon's side." The transformers will help to repair the Jambour and Bseleem substations near Beirut.

FBI warns Jewish groups of retaliation threats in US

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal agents warned Jewish groups Friday of an anonymous threat to murder 1,200 Jewish executives and physicians in the US unless Israel withdraws its military forces from Lebanon by today. "There is no way to know at this time if the threat is real, but the FBI believes that Jewish organizations, synagogues and individuals should, for their own safety, be on heightened alert,"

an FBI statement said. The FBI said the anonymous threat also demanded that Israel pay \$12 billion by today to compensate Lebanese killed in recent Middle East fighting. The FBI has notified Israel of the threat and is also relaying the information to other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The threat was received by a private party who turned it over to the bureau, the FBI said.

Israel rejects UN findings it targeted UNIFIL Kana base

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

THE government yesterday rejected initial UN findings that it had deliberately targeted UNIFIL's Fijian battalion headquarters in Kana village, killing over 100 civilians last month. "We were not aiming at the camp," said Government Press Office Director Uri Dromi. "We knew we were firing near a UN base, but we were aiming a couple of hundred meters away, precisely where Katyushas and mortars were fired from just minutes before," Dromi said. "Unfortunately, two of the shells overshoot and hit the civilians." The government has maintained that it was unaware there were refugees at the camp. Diplomats in New York, familiar with an early incomplete report, said on Friday that the investigation found that, in the absence of concrete evidence from Israel, the UN was forced to conclude that Israel knew it was firing at the camp. "Something went seriously wrong at a point down the chain of [Israeli] command," the diplomats said, quoting from the report. But they said the words "deliberate" or "intentional" were not expected to be used in any final version. No details of the findings have

Dromi said the soldiers had not deviated from procedure when they fired near the UN post. "Peacekeepers knew that if Katyushas were fired from near UN posts they should take cover immediately because we would fire back," he said. The final UN investigation into the incident is expected to be published this week. The inquiry was carried out by Lt.-Gen. Frank Van Kappen, of Holland, at the behest of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Van Kappen and his team visited Kana and interviewed Fijian soldiers, UNIFIL officers, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, and senior IDF officers. UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel, who has not yet seen a copy of the report, said last night that Israel's delegation to the UN was informed on Thursday of the main findings of the inquiry and that Israel had been invited to respond to the findings by tomorrow. (Continued on Page 3)

been released officially, although apparent leaks from the report have already begun appearing in the foreign press. According to the London-based weekly Foreign Report, the UN inquiry found that over 20 shells fell in and near the camp. According to the article and other foreign television and news agency reports, the Hizbullah gunmen had positioned their weapons in the Kana village cemetery - around 200 meters from the UNIFIL base. The Foreign Report article, said that a Hizbullah squad had fired at IDF troops in the area with eight mortar rounds and two Katyusha rockets. The reports said the Hizbullah squad had been tipped off about the presence of an IDF unit in the area and had opened fire at them. According to the reports, the mission of the IDF unit had been to plant mines on the hilltop route between the nearby villages of Zibqine and Hiniyeh because Hizbullah was known to use the area for launching attacks. Prime Minister Shimon Peres unveiled last week that an IDF unit, whose mission was to help prevent the launching of Katyusha

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A qualified couple stonewalled by rejection

If you think you have problems, read this. Your difficulties pale into insignificance compared to those of Benny and Sharon Tapiro, a newly married couple living in Holon.

JUDY SIGEL-ITZKOVICH

Benny and Sharon, both 32 years old, met at Gallaudet University, an institution of higher learning in Washington, DC, for some 4,000 deaf students from around the world.

Spending their time going over classified ads and fruitlessly making applications, they do their household chores and volunteer helping two disabled girls at the Deaf/Blind Club in Tel Aviv.



Benny and Sharon Tapiro communicate by sign language.

(Karen Ben Zion)

Israeli-Moroccan duo research effects of Ramadan fasting on diabetes

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

An Argentinian-born Jewish specialist in metabolism at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Medical School has initiated the first-ever study on the effects of the Moslem fast of Ramadan on diabetics.

The audience was impressed that an Israeli Jew was interested enough in the subject to pursue it.

Maislos and Kadiri met again at a conference in Stockholm and decided to carry out a joint study. Kadiri would provide three blood samples from each of the diabetics - residents of urban areas who fully observed the dawn-to-dusk fast - and Maislos and colleagues would carry out complicated tests on the samples.

End of chemotherapy can cause changes to pre-treatment hair

RX FOR READERS POST HEALTH REPORTER

I have recovered from cancer after having a series of chemotherapy. Almost all my hair fell out during the treatment, but now, my hair is growing all over my head - including where I previously had a large bald spot.

Dr. Ruth Isaacson, an oncologist at the Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, responds: Hair falls out due to chemotherapy treatment, because these drugs need to be toxic to kill cancer cells.

At her age, side effects can be minimal. As she gets older and her hormonal activity stabilizes, the attacks could become less frequent or less painful.

Telecare will 'bring' experts to small clinics

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

SOROKA Hospital is the only provider of major medical care in the entire southern half of Israel. The relatively vast distances between dispersed patients and the Beersheba hospital place it in a unique position for a pilot project testing the benefits of telemedicine.

Middle East. According to Soroka management, a complete change in the behavior and work habits of medical professionals could result from the program.

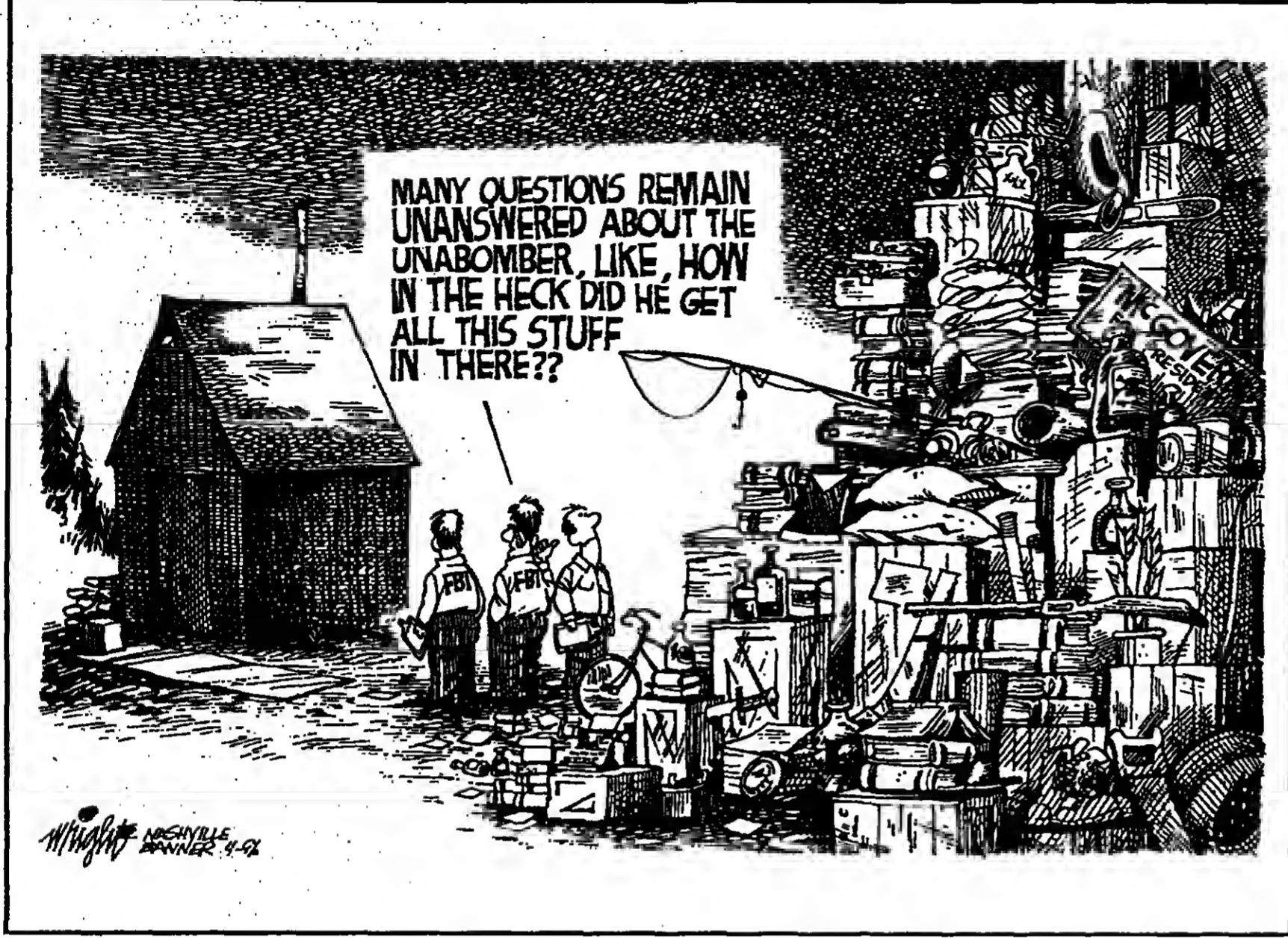
A new chemotherapeutic drug for ovarian cancer is being tested at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, which has been chosen to participate in clinical trials being conducted in 20 medical centers in Europe and the US.

Expanding populations amid rampant poverty, inadequate preventive medical care and sanitation, misuse of antibiotics, and polluted water and air were blamed for the resurgence of long-latent diseases and the appearance of new killers such as toxic shock syndrome, Legionnaire's disease, and AIDS.

JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA I.S.A. Music Director: David Shalfon 1995-96 Season. THE JERUSALEM THEATRE 25th JUBILEE SPECIAL CONCERT. David Shalfon, Conductor. Shmiztzi Viola Concerto in D, Opus 1.

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, May 5, 1996



Clinton tape is hot commodity

By ROBERT NOVAK

White House aides are worried that last week's interrogation of President Clinton from Washington in the Little Rock-based Whitewater trial via television satellite will be pirated for use in the presidential campaign.

"I see Floyd Brown turning it into Clinton sound bites," one staffer said during a White House meeting. Brown produced the famous independent 1988 TV commercial linking presidential candidate Michael Dukakis with convicted killer Willie Horton and has since waged an unremitting war against Clinton with videotapes and newsletters.

Encoding the transmission from Little Rock to foil interception was discussed at the White House but apparently rejected, and Republican operatives are indeed eager to get their hands on tapes of Clinton's testimony. However, there are advisers in the president who are urging him to make all records of his testimony available to the public on grounds that he has nothing to hide.

GOP'S COMMUNICATOR

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, reflecting Republican despair over inability to get the party's message across to the public, has named a new deputy in charge of communications: Rep. John Kasich.

Kasich, the ebullient Ohio conservative who is chairman of the House Budget Committee, is a fiscal hard-liner who has disparaged Clinton administration overtures for a budget settlement as "bunk." But he is probably the member of the House Republican leadership team who is best liked by and most credible with the Washington news media.

Gingrich also views Kasich as the most effective communicator in a party lacking in that talent since Ronald Reagan left the White House. The speaker is giving Kasich responsibility for getting the Republican message on "earned media" broadcast time and print space that cannot be purchased.

WHITE HOUSE RIVALS

In the midst of Clinton's rise in the polls, White House aides report continuing hostility between his two political lieutenants: campaign consultant Dick Morris and Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes Jr. Morris' centrist strategy has carried the day at the White House, with the president co-opting such longtime Republican issues as the budget and taxes. Ickes, a veteran of New York City left-of-center politics, is largely relegated to operational duties.

That division of labor has prevented open warfare for the past several weeks, but animosity boils beneath the surface. It could explode when Clinton's current run of good luck is interrupted by inevitable setbacks.

LEAVING THE SENATE

If Democrats do not regain control of the Senate, Sen. Bob Graham may join the parade of senatorial retirements and run in 1998 for governor of Florida—a post he held from 1978 to 1986.

Graham would be the strongest Democratic candidate against a second try for governor by Republican Jeb Bush, who was narrowly defeated in 1994 by Democratic Gov. Lawton Chiles (ineligible to run for a third straight term in 1998). Bush, son of the former president, is a sympathetic political figure in Florida since post election disclosure of unsavory tactics by the Chiles campaign.

Graham was a nationally renowned figure as governor but has been submerged during 10 years in the Senate, particularly since the Republicans took control last year.

'CLOAK OF SHAME'

Former Republican Sen. Charles H. Percy of Illinois, outraged by what he called the administration's "green light" for Israel's bombardment of Lebanon, wrote Clinton April 19 that "you have woven for the United States a cloak of shame" that all Americans must wear.

The former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is now head of the Hariri Foundation, dedicated to rebuilding war-torn Lebanon.

By failing to condemn Israel's killing of civilians, Percy charged, the president made "all American citizens appear to be accomplices to [Israel's] enormous crimes against humanity." Clinton insists that Hezbollah guerrillas share guilt with Israel and has not condemned Israel for creating 500,000 refugees and killing more than 100 civilians.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

Working girls

Pollsters try to predict new breed of voters

By HANNA ROSIN

You don't have to listen too closely to hear that familiar buzz of the angry Americans. But this election season, it's not the lumpen Joes who are cranky. They've been drowned out by their equally disgruntled better halves: the angry white females, America's hottest new swing vote. "Every poll shows that regardless of where they come from, less-educated blue-collar women are the largest group of volatile voters," says Mary Beth Cahill of Emily's List. "We've become convinced that winning them over is the key to Democratic fortunes."

Over the past year, Democratic pollsters have been jetting to places like Tacoma and Waukegan in search of non-college-educated women earning less than \$30,000 a year. What they've found is an open hydrant of disaffection just waiting to be tapped. The women are "depressed," "disgusted," indeed "royally disgusted" with politics and with their daily lives. They work 10 hours a day filing insurance forms or sorting out chicken parts and still can't pay the hospital bills. They take extra jobs at Christmas so they can phone in gifts to the Home Shopping Network. Few things in life give them pleasure; "Hope and Gloria" is one; Lotto is another.

Like most poll-driven logic, the Democrats' decision to focus on blue-collar women is grade-school simple. It's based on the concept of "drop-off" voters, people who voted in the 1992 presidential elections but stayed home from congressional races two years later, when the Democrats were hammered. Almost half of the "drop-off" voters were working-class women, pollsters have found, and sparking these women's interest in 1996 could win Democrats back the House and the White House.

Operation "Thelma and Louise" has already been road tested. It was conceived during the 1994 Senate race between Dianne Feinstein and Michael Huffington. Emily's List raided the voter files to find women who had voted in 1992 but who skipped the June primary and launched a blitzkrieg of phone calls and direct mail to 900,000 of them. They convinced almost half to

vote, and Feinstein squeaked through with only 165,000 votes.

Now the Clinton campaign has set up its own women's outreach office. But they don't stick to traditional women's issues like abortion rights and maternity leave. That's because, in their political views, blue-collar women tend more often than their yuppie sisters, to defy gender solidarity and to share many of the same concerns as their husbands. "We want to highlight what this president has done for women, but we define that broadly," says Stephenie Foster, who heads the office. "We'll focus on education, the environment, student loans, economic opportunity, health and safety."

"Every poll shows that regardless of where they come from, less-educated blue-collar women are the largest group of volatile voters,"

But, judging from the Emily's List focus groups, winning over today's Norma Raes won't be a cakewalk. "What words come to mind when you think of Bill Clinton?", asks the focus group leader, a maternal figure in a blue shirt. "Wussy," answers one woman. "Pantywaist," adds another. The women see right through his boyish charm. "He really tries to act like he gets it, but he doesn't," says a woman with cropped gray hair. "He'll say one thing, and then two weeks later he'll say something else." The most they seem to feel for the president who has appointed more women to higher office than any before him is pity. "I think he's basically a good person. I mean, he tries," offers one woman hopefully.

Trying does count for something. Most of the women expressed visceral hostility toward Newt Gingrich and terror that he'd leave them in the cold; at least a dozen mentioned tax breaks to the rich and the death of Social Security. One woman talks about a stint on welfare after her husband lost his job, "dressing scuzzy just so peo-

ple wouldn't look at me bad." But she also complains about "19-year-olds going to the welfare office with their babies, as if they owe us something. They don't owe us nothing." The struggle to break into the middle class seems to have left some of these women with a version of the immigrant's mentality — some sympathy in hard times is appreciated, but spare us the coddling.

Immigration itself is another arena where Clintonism leaves the blue-collar women cold. Explaining why the women stayed home in 1994, Ellen Malcolm, president of Emily's List, writes that they were turned off by "public displays of bravado over... punishing illegal immigrants." But several women on the tapes sound a Buchananite note, complaining about the threat of foreigners, about the United States "sending money everywhere else when we don't do enough for our own country."

The women also slip in and out of identification with their own gender. Class bitterness seems to matter for them more than gender solidarity. After watching an ad for one candidate, they decide she wouldn't understand their lives because she looks "rich and wealthy," standing at a construction site in high heels.

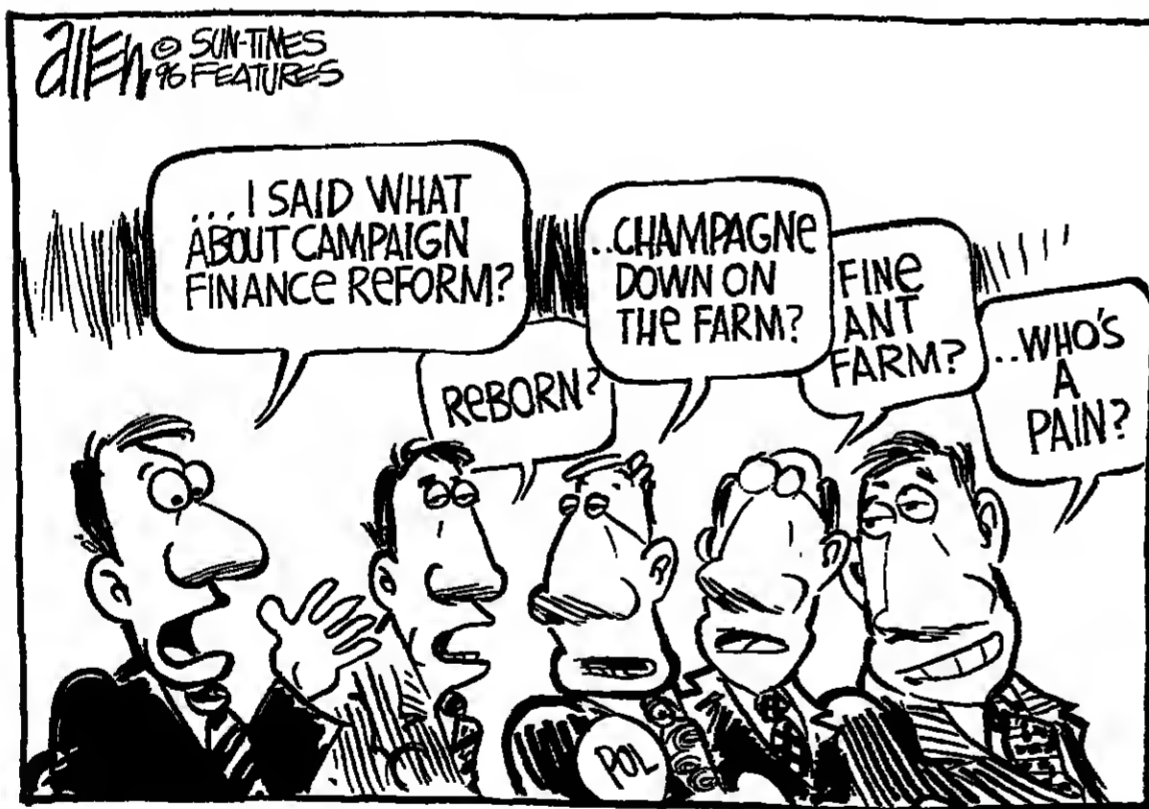
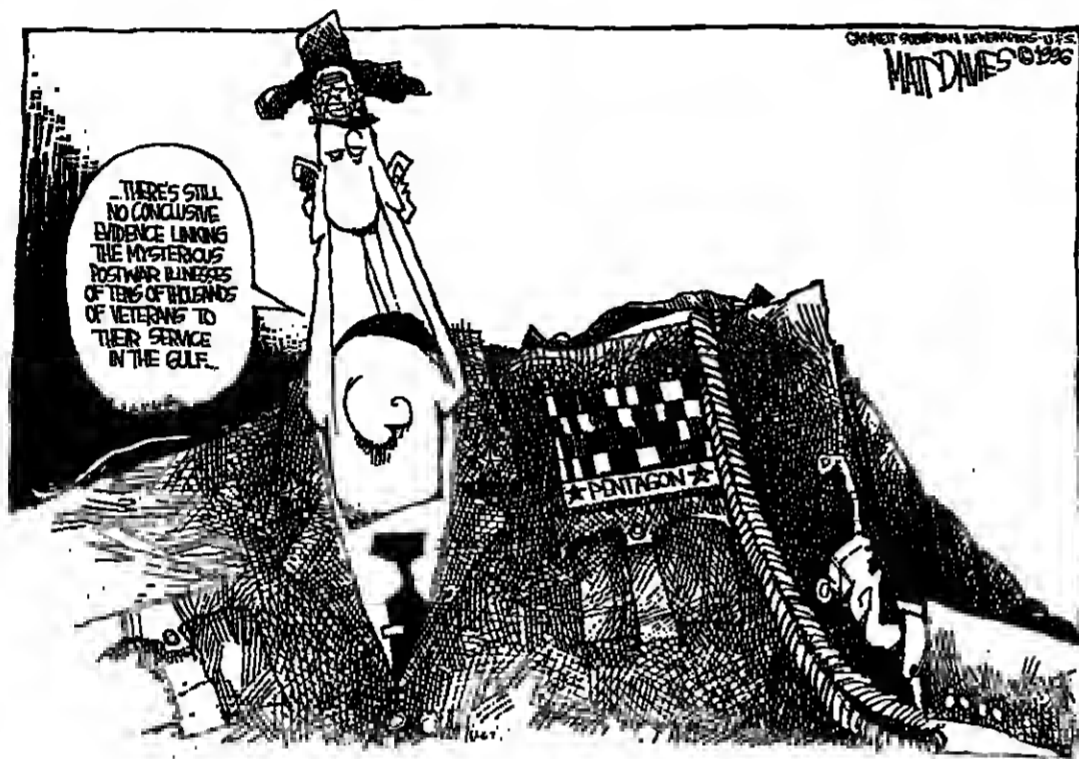
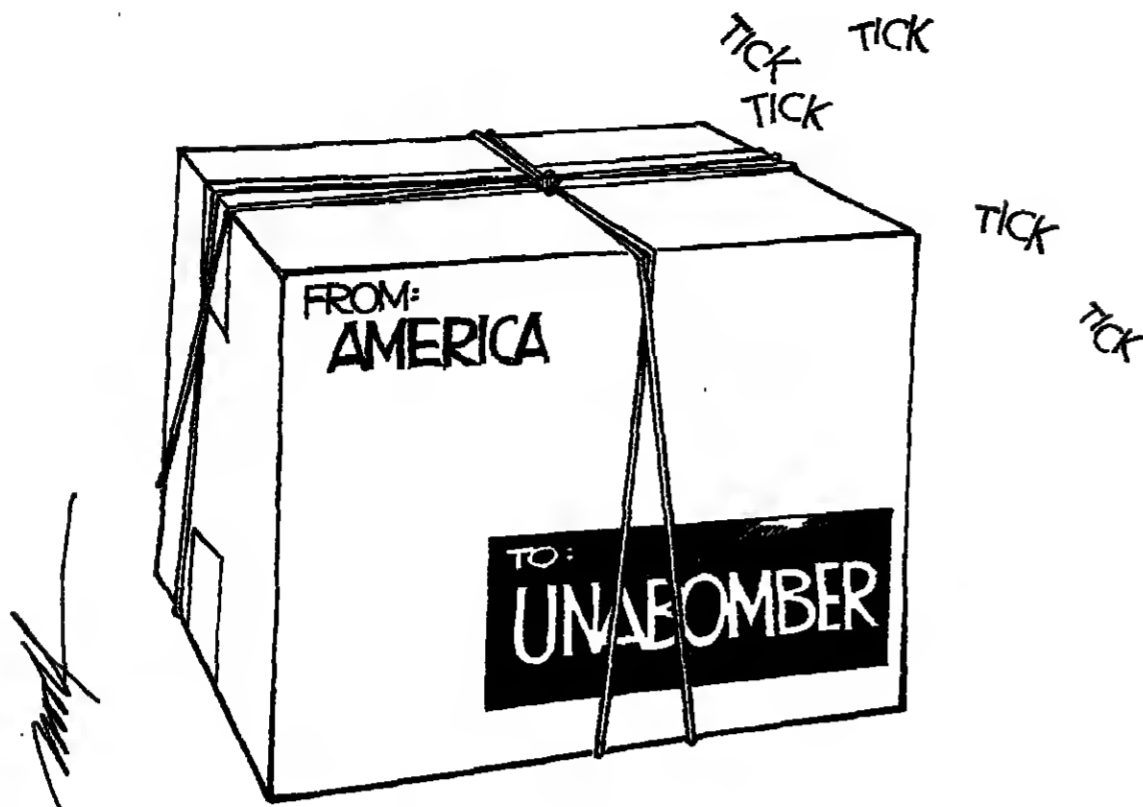
Still, Clinton could warm their blue hearts, in ways that Bob Dole, and probably no Republican, could. One concern the women articulate that their husbands don't is a desperate preoccupation with family values, based not on evangelical codewords, but on economic security. Unlike men, who focus on bank accounts, the women have a broader conception of shelter; they worry about basics — health insurance, child care and schools — issues on which Clinton has a clear advantage. Already the campaign has put out a pamphlet called "Family," in which women named Doty and Jackie fret about the future. It's tready, but it's winning over even Southern white women, who, polls show, are deserting Republicans in droves. And it may spare us more stories of Hope, Ark.

Hanna Rosin is an associate editor of The New Republic.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Undercovering waste at the United Nations

BY CHARLES LANE

As the United Nations' special representative in former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi was infamously diffident in the face of Serb atrocities. A lifelong U.N. apparatchik, he conserves his enthusiasm for other causes—like the United Nations University. As Akashi explained in his memorable 1993 book, "An Agenda for Hope," UNU is a monument to "Japan's positive contributions" to the United Nations and "to the world, through the generation of new ideas and visions."

To the less visionary, however, the 14-story building, erected during Akashi's tenure as a U.N. undersecretary in his home capital of Tokyo, stands as a monument to U.N. pomposity and waste. Staffed by 63 people, UNU was built with \$100 million of Japan's money on land worth \$2 billion. "I've never seen any sign of the UN having a palpable impact on the outside world," Leslie Schenk, an American who served as the university's chief of personnel for seven years, told *The Washington Post* in 1992. If the United Nations had simply asked Japan to sell the land, and to donate the proceeds plus the cost of the building, the organization would have received an amount nearly equal to its operating budget in New York.

Keep UNU in mind as foreign-policy types vent their embarrassment over the \$1.6 billion in dues and peacekeeping costs the United States owes the United Nations. "DON'T CAPSIZE THE U.N.," cries *The New York Times* editorial page. In its news columns, the *Times* warns of dire cutbacks in such agencies as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Program. Some *Times* readers are so embarrassed that they have seot the United Nations their own contributions of \$4.40 each (the estimated per capita cost of retiring the U.S. debt). The campaign was kicked off by former Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, who is — you guessed it — "more and more embarrassed" by America's failure to pay.

As usual, the bad guys in this drama are the Republican Congress and especially Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, who is using his position as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to delay U.N. funding. Though Helms

has made an issue of the U.N. bureaucracy's legendary waste and corruption, his real agenda is the misguided one of getting rid of the United Nations altogether. But in this instance his extremism has also served a useful, clarifying function.

That's because the United Nations' financial crisis is not a crisis of America's making. The people who should really be embarrassed by the organization are the United Nations' own civil servants. For decades, they have righteously demanded more and more American cash, even as they have resisted efforts to introduce accountability into the out-of-control U.N. bureaucracy.

The United States has no right to withhold its money as a show of disagreement with any particular U.N. policy.

UNU is only a modest instance of the organization's penchant for mismanagement and gigantism. The WHO, for example, spends more than \$1 billion every two years and employs 6,000 staff and consultants. Since its founding in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization has spent over \$12 billion, with minimal impact on world hunger — perhaps because half of the money was spent on salaries and maintenance at its lavish Rome headquarters, according to the *Post*.

The basic problem is that the United Nations' budget is voted on by the General Assembly. Tiny nations, often corruptly governed themselves, who contribute only a fraction of the organization's resources, essentially have the power to decide how American money will be spent, which means they can treat it as a free source of patronage. And, since the United States has no veto in the General Assembly, its only leverage against this is the brusque, "embarrassing" one of withholding the money it is legally obligated to pay.

To be sure, the United States has no right to withhold its money as a show of disagreement with any particular U.N. policy or, like Senator Helms, out of contempt for the institution itself. Such a blunt attempt to buy polit-

ical outcomes would, as the *Times* argues, undermine an organization whose impartial credentials can be bent to American purposes — as in the Persian Gulf, Kurdistan, Haiti and elsewhere.

Still, a pro-U.N. case can be made for playing hardball on the money issue. The United Nations is both an ideal and an institution. By now, however, the institution has come to threaten the ideal.

The way to extirpate this culture, is to starve it of the financial fuel on which it runs. Political realities are such, however, that the truly drastic reforms that the organization needs cannot be enacted by U.S. fiat. The question, then, is when to take "yes" for an answer from the United Nations. To date, the United Nations has grudgingly agreed to some U.S.-inspired reforms, such as the establishment of an inspector general's office, and a no-growth budget for 1996-1997. This would entail a cutback of over 10 percent in the organization's 10,000-person New York payroll.

The Clinton administration advocates paying U.S. arrears over five years, arguing to Congress that only after America has begun to do so will it have the credibility to insist that the United Nations go through with the layoffs, and with a reduction in the U.S. share of U.N. dues from 25 to 20 percent of the organization's budget. In the past, however, the General Assembly and the bureaucracy have found ways to renege on such promises. As a sign that things have really changed, Boutros-Ghali should publicly spell out a plan for cutting excess workers and commit himself to pushing the layoffs through the General Assembly. If the secretary-general won't be reasonable with Bill Clinton, he may find himself dealing with Jesse Helms.

Charles Lane is a senior editor of *The New Republic*.

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK
PRODUCED BY:
CHICAGO
SUN-TIMES
FEATURES
SYNDICATE



AFTER TENSE NEGOTIATIONS, THE UNITED NATIONS AGREES TO PROVIDE NBA REFEREES WITH PROTECTION AGAINST NBA PLAYERS.

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SUNDAY COMICS

Doonesbury

G. B. TRUDEAU

DOONESBURY comic strip panels showing characters on a beach and in a car.

PEANUTS

by Schulz

PEANUTS comic strip panels featuring Charlie Brown and Lucy.

Steve

By Jerry Meyers

Steve comic strip panels showing a man in a suit.

Calvin and Hobbes

by Wheldon

Calvin and Hobbes comic strip panels featuring Calvin and Hobbes.

HI, MOM

CLAMS GOT MOMMIES?

TODAY IS THE DAY WE SET ASIDE TO CELEBRATE THE ONE PERSON WITHOUT WHOM WE WOULDN'T EVEN EXIST.

WHAT A GREAT IDEA! OVER HERE WE TEND TO TAKE OUR ORTHODONTISTS FOR GRANTED.

TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Soft drink
 - 5 71 Rembrandt
 - 9 Buenos
 - 14 Jewish holiday
 - 18 Appraisal
 - 20 Eaten dweller
 - 21 Very thin pancake
 - 22 Stared up
 - 23 Contracted
 - 24 Cavern
 - 25 Linda — ("Allo")
 - 26 Divide
 - 27 Woe is me!
 - 28 Put forth effort
 - 32 — Park, Colorado
 - 34 Work unit
 - 35 Faucet
 - 36 Orthodontist's org.
 - 37 Storm bird
 - 38 Certain Asian
 - 39 Forest unit
 - 40 Put forth effort
 - 42 Smart shot in bowling
 - 45 Inlaid
 - 47 Alternative word
 - 49 Chessplayer's cry
 - 50 Profession
 - 52 Author Jong
 - 53 Identical
 - 54 Nervous
 - 51 Timber piece
 - 52 Everlasting
 - 54 Latin word
 - 55 Area measure
 - 56 Name
 - 57 Digger
 - 58 Party pooper
 - 70 Military cap
 - 71 Hange down
 - 72 Limp's kin
 - 74 Native American
 - 76 Find out
 - 77 Off balance
 - 78 Kind
 - 79 Like minutes
 - 81 Anatomic
 - 84 Mend (socks)
- DOWN**
- 1 Appetizer
 - 2 "Ties — Progress"
 - 3 Civil War general
 - 4 Sold further
 - 5 Earthy deposit
 - 6 Commotion
 - 7 Huge
 - 8 Electric unit
 - 9 Rights org.
 - 10 A Gearsman
 - 11 Disclosed
 - 12 Letter
 - 13 Actress Berger
 - 14 Free ticket
 - 15 Actress Mary
 - 16 Type of bed or boat
 - 17 It flows to the
 - 18 Blend
 - 19 Take it easy
 - 20 Palm fruit
 - 21 Fall behind
 - 22 Travel class
 - 23 Druggist
 - 24 Pitzer's stat
 - 25 Had a bite
 - 26 Pointer
 - 27 Reman
 - 28 DJ's pining job
 - 29 Street show
 - 30 — Hair, Indiana
 - 31 Type of bread
 - 32 Impulse
 - 33 Feline god
 - 34 Coffee server
 - 35 Ranzwad energy
 - 36 Beach, Florida
 - 37 Boring tool
 - 38 Prison
 - 39 Residence
 - 40 Actor's domain
 - 41 Related
 - 42 Degraded
 - 43 More reasonable
 - 44 Indiana senator
 - 45 Fuzilura wood
 - 46 Spanish man
 - 47 Sloggle
 - 48 Menzies's board
 - 49 Best or Faber
 - 50 Sharp
 - 51 African country
 - 52 Dangerous gas
 - 53 Keaton or Sawyer
 - 54 Irish port
 - 55 French
 - 56 Debated
 - 57 — go bright!
 - 58 Cornmeal
 - 59 Chopped fine
 - 60 Without a partner
 - 61 Garret
 - 62 Portable "blow"
 - 63 "One — the all"
 - 64 Author Baginold
 - 65 Stupid person
 - 66 Warning device
 - 67 Bird
 - 68 Wager
 - 69 Fortune-teller's
 - 70 Card
 - 71 Sloop
 - 72 San —, Italy
 - 73 Cheap
 - 74 Palm fruit
 - 75 Fall behind
 - 76 Caracol
 - 77 Pitzer's stat
 - 78 Had a bite
 - 79 Reman
 - 80 DJ's pining job
 - 81 Street show
 - 82 — Hair, Indiana
 - 83 Type of bread
 - 84 Impulse
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 - 144 Actor's domain
 - 145 Related
 - 146 Degraded
 - 147 More reasonable
 - 148 Indiana senator
 - 149 Fuzilura wood
 - 150 Spanish man
 - 151 Sloggle
 - 152 Menzies's board
 - 153 Best or Faber
 - 154 Sharp

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for words.





Clinton reluctantly signs Public Safety Act

By JEFFREY ROSEN

He's very upset, says a senior administration official of President Clinton's decision to sign the "Effective Death Penalty and Public Safety Act of 1996." "It breaks his heart."

On the one hand, Clinton was reluctant to go down in history as the president who signed the first statutory limitations on habeas corpus since Magna Carta; on the other hand, there was Oklahoma City. So Clinton this week weepily girded himself for the signing ceremony.

But never mind the tears. The "Public Safety Act" is the nastiest piece of legislation that Clinton has signed during his four years in office, and his failure to veto it will be a permanent stain on his presidency.

To assuage their jittery consciences, Justice Department officials are suggesting that the real villain in the drama that led to the terrorism bill was the unholy alliance between the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Rifle Association. Before Oklahoma City, the administration proposed a series of measures for expanding the FBI's power to fight international terrorism, including a good-faith exception for illegally conducted wiretaps and greater access to credit records. Waving the banner of Ruby Ridge, a coalition of liberal civil libertarians and conservative anti-federalists persuaded Representative Bob Barr of Georgia to sponsor an amendment removing the Clinton proposals. As soon as the amendment passed last March, the NRA promptly withdrew its opposition to the terrorism bill, which sailed through the House and Senate with hardly any debate last week. "To me, the lesson is that an alliance between the radical right and the radical left serves the radical right," suggests a senior Justice Department official.

This narrative, however, omits two crucial protagonists: President Clinton and Senator Orrin Hatch. After the Oklahoma City bombing, Hatch saw a heaven-sent opportunity to enact the habeas corpus revolution that Republicans have been proposing for more than a decade. In an inspired bit of ambulance chasing, Hatch dragooned the parents of the Oklahoma bombing victims into endorsing his bill, even though none of them seemed to have a clue what "habeas corpus" meant. Clinton,

for his part, originally insisted in the wake of the bombing that habeas corpus reform had nothing to do with fighting terrorism. But last June, in one of the most egregious flip flops of his presidency, he announced on "Larry King Live" that habeas corpus reform "ought to be done in the context of this terrorism legislation." Two days later, the Senate obliged.

It's an irony, and not a very amusing one, that a Congress that pretends to be concerned about states' rights, and a president who claims to be devoted to civil liberties, have together passed the most illiberal crime bill since the McCarthy era.

How radically will the "Public Safety Act" of 1996 change the law of habeas corpus as we know it? Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan was perhaps a little rash when he compared Clinton's capitulation on habeas corpus to Lincoln's suspension of the Great Writ during the Civil War. Even after the habeas corpus act of 1867, habeas corpus was a relatively thin guarantee that someone couldn't be incarcerated without some kind of fair judicial hearing. After the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Allen* decision in 1953, however, habeas corpus was transformed into something different: a mechanism by which federal courts can review the substantive and procedural merits of every conviction (or a death penalty) handed down by state courts. The Hatch-Clinton bill would essentially return the law to its pre-1953 condition, requiring federal courts to defer to the legal and factual conclusions of state courts, unless the state court determination involved an "unreasonable application of clearly established federal law" or was based on an "unreasonable application of the facts."

This will have no impact at all on fighting terrorists (all of whom are prosecuted in federal rather than state courts in the first place) but will greatly increase the possibility that ordinary

defendants can be convicted or executed after a state trial that has been tainted with constitutional or factual errors. Nevertheless, the Rehnquist Court, on its own initiative, has been chipping away at habeas corpus for over the decade; and the Clinton-Hatch bill represents more of a coup de grace for the Warren Court's conception of habeas corpus than a drastic departure from the status quo.

Another land mine buried in the "Public Safety Act" will transform federal-state relations almost as radically as the habeas corpus reforms. Section 702 of the bill federalizes thousands of "assaults with a dangerous weapon" previously punished exclusively under state law, with sentences of up to 35 years in a federal prison. At the 11th hour, on April 15, the conference committee deleted a requirement that the conduct had to be politically motivated. As the law stands, therefore, the only limitation on the most dramatic federalization of state criminal law in American history is a requirement of criminal "involvement transcending national boundaries." But this could be satisfied by nothing more than evidence that the defendant used drugs imported from Canada or Mexico.

Finally, there are the immigration provisions. Previously rejected by bipartisan consensus, and smuggled in at the last minute by the conference committee, these provisions would allow the government to deport aliens based on secret evidence; would require the government summarily to exclude aliens who have entered the United States without inspection; and would allow the government to exclude aliens merely on the basis of their membership in illicit organizations. Even the current Supreme Court may well strike down these textbook violations of due process and the First Amendment.

It's an irony, and not a very amusing one, that a Congress that pretends to be concerned about states' rights, and a president who claims to be devoted to civil liberties, have together passed the most illiberal crime bill since the McCarthy era.

Jeffrey Rosen is the legal affairs editor of *The New Republic*.

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Disney pulls the plug on racist talk

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ

What kind of a human being would publicly express the hope that Commerce Secretary Ron Brown would not survive, when news of his plane crash was first disclosed? What sort of classic racist would repeatedly argue that the skeletal structure of African-American faces was not designed for the speaking of civilized language? What manner of crude bigot would suggest that blacks were lower on the evolutionary scale than whites? What type of perverted person would compare minorities to "maggots on a hot day" who multiply so quickly that a mandatory sterilization program is called for?

No, these are not the words of a KKK or neo-Nazi leader — or a semi-literate drunk at a neighborhood bar. These were the commonly expressed thoughts of a daily talk-show host in New York City on WABC, a radio station owned by the Disney Corp. Nor were they only occasionally expressed or taken out of the usual context of the talk show's daily litany of racial hate. I have listened to an actual tape recording of several hours of excerpts from the Bob Grant show, which covers several years from 1992 to early 1996.

As you read the following quotations from Bob Grant, try to imagine how they sound when spoken in a mocking and race-baiting voice:

On Martin Luther King:
"If they didn't observe Martin Luther King Day there'd be trouble from the savages." "They're not satisfied with every third street being ML King boulevard... named after that scumbag Marty." (10/15/93).

On societal decay:
"We're dealing with subhumanoid savages... We're dealing with a lot of people who are much, much farther behind on the evolutionary scale — you understand what I'm saying?" (1-3-94).

On a black caller:
"His kind do have that problem [of forming words]. Maybe they weren't intended to speak a civilized language..." (9-16-93).

To another black caller:
"On the evolutionary scale you're about 25 generations behind me." (5-2-94).

On Magic Johnson:
"Why is it taking so long for the HIV to go to full-blown AIDS for crying out loud? I'm making novenas... If the guy would go into full-blown AIDS and deteriorate in front of our eyes and croak then maybe, maybe he could make a contribution." (10/1/92).

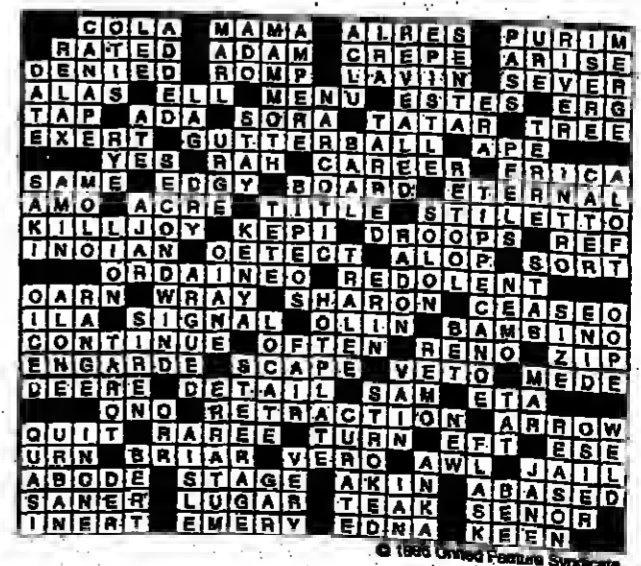
On Bill Clinton:
"Wouldn't that be incredible if he were HIV positive... wouldn't that be delicious, though." (5/26/93).

I was in the process of sending copies of this tape to all major Disney executives, as well as executives of ABC, when it was announced that Grant had been fired. I was asking them to listen to the tape and decide whether this is the kind of talk with which they, their companies, their stars, their sponsors, and their consumers want to be associated. The tape proves that these characterizations are factually correct and not mere name-calling. I can imagine no softer words to describe accurately the contents of the Grant program. When WABC took my talk show off their station — I am still on 50 other stations — for making these statements, they made it impossible for themselves to defend keeping Grant on their station because of a commitment to freedom of speech.

Had WABC decided to keep both Grant and me on their New York station — which would have been the best resolution — Disney and ABC could have plausibly argued that they were practicing freedom of expression by keeping open the marketplace of ideas. But by picking and choosing which speech they prefer — in this case more profitable racist speech over less profitable anti-racist speech — they forfeited the freedom of expression claim. They were forced to defend their preference on the merits. This they could not do, because Grant is a racist and his unanswered berating of minorities on a major radio station was legitimating his brand of racism among many listeners who had previously heard such views only whispered in neighborhood bars. In the short term, Disney and ABC might have made more money from Grant's racism than from my anti-racism, but in the long run, neither Disney nor ABC would profit from being associated with a bigoted talk-show host like Grant. Disney had little choice if it was to preserve its important role as a leading communications company in a multi-racial world in which all of its consumers matter.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest book is "Reasonable Doubts" (Simon & Schuster).

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10/10/96

Key Representative Rates table with columns for instrument, rate, and change.

INTL STOCK MARKET table with columns for market, last price, and change.

New York market indexes table with columns for index name, last price, and change.

Other stock market indexes table with columns for index name, last price, and change.

Israeli stocks in NY table with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

NASDAQ / over-the-counter table with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

INTL MONEY MARKET table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

Dollar crossrates table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

Labor rates table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

US commodities table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

London commodities table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

Spot market metals (US) table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

New York metal futures table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

London metal futures table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

Mixed table with columns for instrument, last price, and change.

Stocks close lower WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - A mild rebound in stocks faltered Friday as bonds lost their footing again, sending interest rates even higher...

On Thursday, the Dow plunged nearly 77 points and broader indexes tumbled even further as the latest evidence of a surging economy sent investors running for cover before today's employment report.

The Nasdaq market - one of Thursday's biggest losers as investors locked in profits on the recent rally in technology and smaller-company shares - managed a gain on the day, but slid sharply with the market after surging more than 15 points earlier in the afternoon.

Most other broad market indexes ended lower. Bonds rose Friday - with long-term interest rates dipping from their first close above 7 percent in about a year - after the Labor Department reported that the nation's unemployment rate dipped to 5.4 percent in April, the lowest level in 14 months.

Thursday's retreat halted a string of 10 straight record highs for the Nasdaq composite and Russell 2000 list of smaller companies, which have outperformed the blue-chip market for weeks on expectations that more speculative businesses will benefit most from an improving economy.

On Wall Street, declining issues led advances by a slim margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,095 up, 1,180 down and 844 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 427.80 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 441.07 million in the previous session.

The NYSE's composite index fell 0.82 to 345.39. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 1.74 to 641.64.

The Nasdaq composite index gained 3.97 to 1,182.30. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 0.91 to 346.85.

At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index rose 0.72 to 589.69.

As of 4 p.m. in New York, the dollar stood at 105.05 yen, up from 104.35 yen Thursday, and 1.5245 marks, down from 1.5283.

The release of the US employment data kicked off the trading day. It followed work Thursday that the nation's gross domestic product rose at a 2.8 percent rate during the year's first three months.

Other late dollar rates in New York, compared with Thursday: 1.2415 Swiss francs, down from 1.2440; 5.1505 French francs, down from 5.1627; 1.5645 Italian lire, up from 1.5635; and 1.6552 Canadian dollars, up from 1.6321.

The British pound traded at \$1.5070, up from \$1.5025.

Dow down for the week WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow industrials fell 20.24 to 5,478.03 on Friday, a loss of 89.96 for the week.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 1.75 to 641.63 on Friday, down 11.83 on the week.

The New York Stock Exchange's composite index fell 0.81 to 345.40, a loss of 5.42 on the week.

The Nasdaq composite index - which closed at record highs for 10 straight sessions before sliding 21.33 in Thursday's sell-off - rose 6.27 to 1,184.60 on Friday, trimming its loss for the week to 2.29.

The American Stock Exchange's market value rose 0.72 to 589.69, down 3.88 on the week.

The Wilshire Associates Equity Index - which combines the market value of all NYSE, American, and Nasdaq issues - ended the week at \$6.421 trillion, off \$86.48 billion from last week.

A year ago the index was at \$5.074 billion.

Dollar rises against yen CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar reversed course and advanced against the Japanese yen Friday but fell against most other major currencies during a quiet session driven largely by technical factors.

Widely anticipated data on US employment presented traders with mixed signals, as the nation's unemployment rate dipped to a 14-month low of 5.4 percent in April but job growth came to a meager 2,000. Job growth the prior two months had been powerful.

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The British pound traded at \$1.5070, up from \$1.5025.

London market down 81 WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - US economic data ultimately dominated a tense, eod of week session with bid activity and political issues relegated to supporting roles.

The FTSE 100 ended at 3,751.6, a fall of 24.8 points and from a week ago a fall of 81.2.

FRANKFURT - Germany's 30-share DAX index closed sharply lower on Friday after stronger-than-expected US GDP data on Thursday triggered a sell-off on Wall Street, weakened Bunds and halted the dollar's rise.

The blue-chip DAX index closed down 44.82 points at 2,457.49 points a fall of 79.68 on last Friday's close. In post-bourse trade the index stood at 2,472.43 up 6.94.

TOKYO - The Tokyo stock market was closed Friday and will be again tomorrow for national holidays. It will reopen on Tuesday. On Thursday, the 225-share Nikkei average finished down 152.63 points at 21,662.38 a fall of 572.65 on last Friday's close.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares ended a quiet day weak, with industrials hit early on a fall in US stocks and golds static despite a firmer bullion price.

The all-share index was down 65.1 points to 6,927.2 down 119.8 on the week, the industrial index shed 102.9 points to 8,204.6 a fall of 208.3 since last week and the gold index up 1.7 points at 1,963.3 a rise of 3.9 from Friday.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Advertisement for Israel Discount Bank with contact information and services.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table showing Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) for 3, 6, and 12 months.

Table showing Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates for various currencies.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table listing international stock prices for various companies and markets.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table showing Flexible mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

Table showing Shares mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

Table showing State Bonds mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

Table showing Company Bonds mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

Table showing Foreign Currency mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

Table showing Paris mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

Table showing Frankfurt mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

Table showing Mixed mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

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Table showing London metal futures mutual funds with columns for fund name, last price, and change.

Amman-TA bus shuttle postponed

AMMAN (AP) — A bus shuttle between Amman and Tel Aviv has been postponed by "at least two weeks" to allow more time for technical preparations, Transportation Minister Nassir Lawzi said yesterday.

The bus service will not be launched today as previously announced due to "logistical and procedural matters," he said.

Lawzi explained that the transportation companies that will operate the Amman-Tel Aviv shuttle were not ready. He stressed that the delay has "no political bearings."

Transportation Minister Yisrael Kesssar announced last night that Israel would also delay the beginning of its bus shuttle to Amman until Jordan begins its service.

Israel Radio reported. Jordan and Israel agreed March 18 to open their borders for vehicles transporting goods and passengers in line with their October 1994 peace treaty.

The previous arrangement allowed vehicles transporting passengers and goods to unload at border crossings between the two countries, but not to cross the frontier.

Under the new plan, tourist buses began traveling through the Arava crossing on April 1. Private cars from both sides began to cross the border on April 28.

Jordanian airlines began five weekly flights to Tel Aviv on April 7, while Israeli flights are expected to start later this month.



Border police block a group of Palestinian and Israeli labor activists, protesting the closure and demanding to return to their jobs, from passing a roadblock near Jerusalem yesterday. (Reuters)

WEATHER

Haifa	14-24
Tiberias	14-31
Afula	13-29
Be'er Sheva	12-27
Tel Aviv	14-24
Jerusalem	12-27
Be'er Sheva	18-29
Dead Sea	21-35
East	21-37

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, warmer.

US activists decide against action on Agency's problems in Russia

AFTER Chairman Avraham Burg's whirlwind trip to New York and the publicity in the US last week about the Jewish Agency's problems in Russia, American Jewish activists just wanted to lower the volume. Many feared that public pronouncements could inflame the agency's problems and ensnare other Jewish organizations in Russia.

"Everyone wants to put the genie back in the bottle," said one American Jewish leader.

Burg, in New York on Thursday, had informed American Jews about the situation via conference calls. Many had expected a "call to action" after reports in *The Washington Post* and the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* last week indicated that Burg thought the agency's problem was a cause for world Jewry, and not just a bilateral diplomatic issue between Moscow and Jerusalem.

However, Burg's signals were out of sync with those the Americans were getting from the Foreign Ministry, which was calling for restraint, sources said.

In the end, "there was no call for broad-based communal action," said Mark Levin,

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Instead, he said Friday, people were asked to stay apprised of events and "express concern in an appropriate way."

"There was a clear consensus that to induce public action or any media attention would be counterproductive," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "This is not the time for public posturing."

Advocates were agitated about the way in which the issue was being handled, even as the underlying cause and significance of the Russian action remained unclear. Instead of solving its problem, the Jewish Agency was expanding the conflict and exporting it to the US, said numerous advocates, none of whom would be identified.

What should have been a bilateral issue between Israel and Russia appeared to be growing into an affair that involved the US,

which has no quarrel with Moscow, they said.

In addition, some Americans were taken aback by newspaper reports that Burg said he had "summoned" Alexander Bavin, the Russian envoy to Israel, to a meeting.

"Does the Jewish Agency think it is the Foreign Ministry?" one source asked.

Burg was unavailable for comment in New York after his talks with American Jews. On Thursday, Burg also signed an agreement with the Swiss Bankers Association about dormant accounts from the Holocaust era.

On Wednesday, the day *The Washington Post* report appeared, State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said the US is concerned about restrictions on the Jewish Agency.

"One of the most important aspects of political reform in Russia from the standpoint of the United States has, of course, been freedom for Russian citizens to emigrate. We expect that Russian citizens will continue to be able to exercise that right," Davies said, noting that there was no indication that Russia would end emigration.

Messianic Jews plan to plant 'messianic forest'

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

TWO messianic Jewish groups want roots in Israel — 10,000 of them. The Messianic Jewish Alliance of America and the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations plan to plant 10,000 trees through the Jewish National Fund for what the groups are calling a "messianic forest."

The *Forward* reported in New York.

"We don't ask the pedigree of everyone who calls to plant a tree," JNF spokesman Mark Cohen told *The Jerusalem Post* on Friday. "If the group is not doing anything [contrary] to JNF, we don't say no."

JNF has forests and woods in honor or memory of many non-

Jews, Cohen said, citing Pope John Paul II, John Lennon, country singer Johnny Cash and Jane Fonda.

However, the JNF worked out a special agreement with the messianic groups, whose efforts to convert Jews angered the Jewish community.

According to the agreement, Cohen said, "They in no form or fashion use the words 'messiah' or 'messianic' in promotional literature asking constituents to plant trees."

JNF, which stands to earn \$50,000 from the sales, also eschews the word "messiah." The groups' plaque will read, "MIAA-UMJC Forest."

Barak to travel to US tomorrow

FOREIGN Minister Ehud Barak is to travel to the US tomorrow, where he will meet with Jewish community leaders in New York. On Wednesday, he will fly to Washington to discuss renewing final status talks with the Palestinians and proposals for reaching an agreement with Syria with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He will return here on Thursday.

Labor to call for Knesset session on State Comptroller's Report

THE Labor Party intends to call a special Knesset session this week for a discussion of the State Comptroller's Report.

Labor Party faction head Ra'anan Cohen has submitted the 30 signatures necessary to convene the plenum. According to Labor, the Likud is trying to use the report as political ammunition.

In a statement issued last night, Cohen said that in contrast to the 1992 report — which "revealed gravest irregularities" — the recent report was "routine and reason-

able."

"The small number of irregularities which were found in the report will be soon corrected, even without considering the Likud's attempt to use it for political purposes," the party said.

Cohen said the Likud "would do best to concentrate on the significant matters in the report such as the war on traffic accidents and the inequality of reserve duty, instead of searching for and inventing criticism that is not relevant."

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir is expected to take over as ambassador to China on May 22, a week before the elections.

The posting was approved by the Foreign Ministry's appointments committee in a special speeded-up process several days after the Labor primaries. There was fear in Labor that if the Likud won the elections, Namir's appointment would be canceled.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak proposed giving Namir the post as compensation for her disappoint-

ing showing in the primaries: second place among the women candidates, but only 18th overall on the Labor list. As a result, her chances of receiving a ministerial post in any new Peres government were almost nonexistent.

Barak heard from Namir about the very close relations she had recently established with some of the Chinese ministers, and initiated her appointment. As part of the package deal that allowed her to be appointed, it was agreed that current ambassador to China Moshe Ben-Ya'acov would become

ambassador to Japan, in place of Amos Manor, who will retire.

Namir, lost out to Rabin in a bid to head the party in 1992, and was later appointed environment minister while Rabin held Labor and Social Affairs, hoping to lure United Torah Judaism with the portfolio. However, that never happened, and she was granted the Labor and Social Affairs portfolio, which she held for three years.

Upon her taking up the post in Beijing, the portfolio will be temporarily held by Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Namir to take up post in China before election

'Hametz' takes honors as top local play of 1995

HELEN KAYE

THE theater community honored its own at the first ever Israel Theater Prize awards ceremony at Tel Aviv's Dahl Auditorium on Thursday night.

Stavros Hasiari's post-Zionist drama, *Hametz*, won top honors, but the evening's high spot and most emotional moment was the presentation of a Life Achievement award to playwright and recent Israel Prize winner Nissim Aloni.

Aloni, who is still recuperating from a stroke he suffered some two years ago, sat in the front row. Actor Yossi Banai, who presented Aloni with his prize, turned the frail-looking playwright around so he could see the standing ovation he got.

Hametz was named best play of 1995 and Hasiari best playwright. Going on stage to receive his statuette, designed for the event by Ruth Dar, Hasiari said: "You need a lot of courage to get up here and receive a prize for playwrighting in the presence of Nissim Aloni."

The drama, a Beit Liessan production, also won Miriam Zohar

and Dvora Kedar the best actress and "best supporting" actress awards, respectively.

"The Habima Theater's *The Good Soldier Schweik* won best comedy and best translator for author/sculptor Amos Kenan.

Geshet theater artistic director Yevgeny Arye was named best director for *Iartuffe*.

Menahem Golan's production of *The Sound of Music* was named best musical.

Shaul Rand won best actor for, his roles in *Pollard* and *Agape*, at the Cameri Theater and Yitzhak-Hizkiya was named best supporting actor for *A Funny Thing Happened...* (Cameri).

Shiri Golan and Yoram Hatav were named most promising newcomers and the awards for best set, costume and lighting went respectively to Ruth Dar, Anna Khrushchova, and Avi Yona (Bambi) Bueno.

Arkadi Duchin won composer of the year for four productions including *Hametz*, and Jetta Luky, was named entertainer of the year.

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Arab writer Emile Habibi buried in Haifa

EMILE Habibi, the country's leading Arab writer who died Thursday of cancer at 74, was buried Friday at the Protestant cemetery in his home town of Haifa.

Earlier, hundreds filed past his coffin at the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, including Arab and Jewish writers, intellectuals and politicians. The government was represented by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni.

At the basilica in Nazareth, Habibi was eulogized by exiled Arab poet Mahmoud Darwish, who was given special permission by the government to attend the funeral.

Darwish, a member of the PNC, refused to attend last week's Gaza conference at which the PNC agreed to revoke sections of the Palestinian Covenant that called for the destruction of Israel. (AP)

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